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ANTHROPOLOGY AT COLUMBUS

By W J McGEE

The Forty-eighth meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science was held in Columbus, Ohio, August 19-26 last. The attendance was something over three hundred and fifty, i. e., considerably above the average; there was somewhat exceptional local interest, with decided promise of beneficial influence on the scientific and educational institutions of the region; while the papers were materially above the average in number and quality. Accordingly the meeting was a somewhat exceptionally satisfactory one. While the Section of Anthropology was not especially distinguished in attendance or in number of papers, the position of the science was well maintained, partly through the presentation of papers and addresses of anthropologic bearing in other sections—particularly in the Section of Social and Economic Science, which was unprecedentedly strong, and which, perhaps for the first time, came well to the fore among the sections in the interest and importance of its sessions.

An anthropologic tone was given to the entire meeting through the address of the retiring President, Prof. F. W. Putnam, under the title "A Problem in American Anthropology." This address has already been placed within reach of readers in the columns of *Science* (vol. x, pp. 225-236), and *Nature* (vol. 60, pp. 451-455), as well as in other publications. The tone was maintained in the well-attended address of Vice-president Wilson on the "Beginnings of the Science of Prehistoric Anthropology," which is about to appear in *Science*.

The Section of Anthropology was organized under Vice-president Wilson by election of E. W. Scripture as secretary, W J

McGee as councilor, and Robert Clarke, Frank Russell, and George Grant McCurdy, with J. McK. Cattell and M. H. Saville (both *ex-officio*) as sectional committee, and Amos F. Butler as representative of the section in general committee. The more general work of the section comprised (1) memorial proceedings on the death of Dr Daniel G. Brinton; (2) presentation and discussion of a report of the Association committee on the White Race in America, which was forwarded and adopted by the Association at Large; (3) an informal report on the winter meeting held in New York in December, 1898; (4) decision to hold a winter meeting during the Christmas holidays of 1899 at a point to be selected by the sectional committee (a decision subsequently ratified by the council of the Association); (5) appointment of a committee to promote anthropologic teaching in universities.

The committee on the White Race in America consists of J. McK. Cattell, W. W. Newell, W J McGee, and Franz Boas. The report summarized previous work, and recommended the acquisition of anthropometric apparatus, to be used for making standard measurements of members of the Association in attendance at the meetings to such extent as might be found expedient, proposing an appropriation for the purpose.

A small appropriation was made by the council of the Association to defray the cost of printing in connection with the winter meeting, which will probably be held in New Haven, in connection with the American Society of Naturalists and the American Folk-lore Society.

The committee on anthropologic teaching in universities, appointed subsequent to the meeting, consists of W J McGee of the Bureau of American Ethnology, George Grant McCurdy of Yale University, and Frank Russell of Harvard University.

Of the twenty papers introduced in the program of the section, but one related exclusively to somatology; this was an elaborate illustrated communication by Dr Frank Russell, entitled "A Comparative Study of the Physical Structure of the Labrador

Eskimos and the New England Indians." The communication was based on critical study of the large quantity of material in Peabody Museum; and the measurements show considerable and consistent skeletal differences between the two groups. Somatology and psychology were conjoined in Dr Cattell's communication, "New Anthropometric Methods," which was important as a suggestion—if not a demonstration—that psychology furnishes a clue leading through the interminable tangle of anthropometric data; for the essence of structural facts resides in actions and reactions which always reveal a dominant psychic factor. Equally definite and practical, as representing a bridge between body and mind, was Dr Scripture's paper. "Inadequacy of the Present Tests for Color-Blindness, with Demonstrations of a New Test"; while modern psychology, with its clear physical basis, was exemplified in two other papers by the same author, "Observations on After-Images and Cerebral Light" and "Observations on the Economy of Sleep." Closely related to this was the paper on "Defective Vision of School Children," by A. G. Fried in Section I, together with "Time of Perception as a Measure of the Intensity of Light," and "Relations of Time and Space in Vision," by Dr Cattell in Section B.

Esthetology was gracefully represented by "The Natural Diatonic Scale: a Chapter of Musical History," by Charles K. Wead, and by the same author's papers in the Section of Physics on "The Musical Scales of the Arabs" and "Medieval Organ Pipes and their Bearing on the History of the Scale"; while Dr Scripture's illustrated account of "Researches in Experimental Phonetics, with Demonstration of Results," before the Section of Anthropology, was an instructive analysis of musical factors.

Technology was represented only in its prehistoric aspects. A valuable contribution to American archeology was made in the paper on "The Aboriginal Quarries and Shops at Mill Creek, Miami County, Illinois," by Dr W. A. Phillips, which was illustrated by maps and diagrams, and by numerous specimens of

quarrying tools and of quarry products in various stages, from raw material to finished implement, with examples of wastage and rejectage at each stage. Another valuable contribution was an account of the "Prehistoric Settlement, Big Kiokee Creek, Columbia County, Georgia," by Dr Robert Steiner (presented by Vice-president Wilson), the paper being based on the Steiner collection of aboriginal material, now in the National Museum, which is of large interest as a practically exhaustive collection from a typical district of aboriginal occupancy. Of related subject were "Evidences of Ancient Prehistoric Man in the Maumee River Basin," by Dr Charles E. Slocum; "The Latest Discoveries of Traces of Glacial Man at Trenton, New Jersey, and the Light Thrown upon them by a Comparative Study of the Gravels of the Delaware and Susquehanna Valleys," by G. F. Wright, and "Recollections of M. Boucher de Perthes," by Vice-president Wilson.

Naturally, sociology was represented mainly in the Section of Social and Economic Science, finding expression in a number of important papers, among which may be enumerated "Natural Distribution as Modified by Modern Agriculture," by John Hyde; "Trusts: a Study in Industrial Evolution," by H. T. Newcomb; "Moral Tendencies of Existing Social Conditions," by Washington Gladden; "Science and Art in Social Development," by John S. Clark, and "The Manual Element in Education," by C. M. Woodward.

Sophiology was developed especially in "The Cherokee River Cult," by James Mooney, and "Allan Stevenson's Trance," by Dr Robert Steiner, and incidentally in "The Beginnings of Mathematics," by W J McGee (printed on pages 646-674 of this number); while some of the papers in the Section of Social and Economic Science were of related import.

Of somewhat general character were the papers before the anthropologic Section on "The Scientific Societies and Institutions of the United States," by Dr Cattell, and the "Extent of Instruction in Anthropology in Europe and America," by

Dr McCurdy; and of definite anthropologic bearing were the papers in the Section of Social and Economic Science on "Calculations of Population in June, 1900," by Henry Farquhar, and "The Increase in the Median Age of the Population of the United States since 1850," by Mansfield Merriman. Professor Merriman's paper was suggestive, incidentally as forming a means for trustworthy age determination in the broadly collective way, and directly as indicating the rapid increase of viability in this country under existing social and economic conditions; his figures indicating that the mean age of Americans is some years greater today than it was even so late as the middle of the century.

Peculiarly germane to the work in the Sections of Anthropology and of Social and Economic Science, by reason of the prominence given to the broader humanities forming the basis of modern anthropology, was the vigorous opening address of the venerable President of the Association, Professor Edward Orton. Summarizing the growth of knowledge, from primal darkness through the shadow of the Middle Ages and into the enlightenment of the nineteenth century, he noted three advances in the essentially human activities as buttresses of all scientific progress, viz: Arabic numerals, the alphabet, and the printing press. And his view of the splendid present and brilliant future of science was quite in accord with that of the normal anthropologist: "The field, which is the world, was never so white unto the harvest as now; yet it is still early morning on the dial of science." Coming from an eminent geologist, the words are peculiarly grateful to students of Human Science; and they acquire a permanent significance as among the last public utterances of one of America's pioneers in knowledge-making. Professor Orton died on October 16.